

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Geoffrey B. Rhoads

Application No.: 09/198,022

Filed: November 23, 1998

For: SECURITY DOCUMENT WITH
STEGANOGRAPHICALLY-ENCODED
AUTHENTICATION DATA

Examiner: A. Johns

Date: August 29, 2001



Art Unit: 2621

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper and the documents referred to as being attached or enclosed herewith are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on August 29, 2001 as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON D.C. 20231.

William Y. Conwell
Attorney for Applicant

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

Enclosed is a Response for the above application. The fee has been calculated as shown below.

CLAIMS AS AMENDED

| For | No. after amendment | No. paid for previously | Present Extra | Rate | Fee |
|---|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------|--------|
| Total Claims | 17 | 20 | = -0- | \$18.00 | \$0.00 |
| Indep. Claims | 2 | 3 | = -0- | \$80.00 | \$0.00 |
| -month Extension of Time | | | | | |
| TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT | | | | | |

Please charge any fees which may be required in connection with filing this Response and any extension of time, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1071.

Date: August 29, 2001

Respectfully submitted,



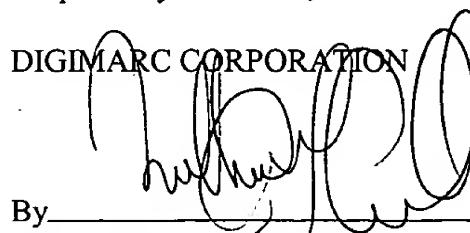
23735

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Phone: 503-885-9699
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By

William Y. Conwell
Registration No. 31,943



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9-6-01

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William Y. Conwell
Attorney for Applicant

RECEIVED

SEP 06 2001

Technology Center 2600

RESPONSE

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Responsive to the Action mailed May 29, 2001, applicant responds as follows:

REMARKS

Reconsideration of claims 1-17 is requested in view of the following remarks.

The Action observes that Szepanski fails to teach that the digital data is encoded in the graphic or photograph steganographically, so as not to visibly interrupt the graphic, and that the noise in the image is only perceptible as a representation of the multi-bit digital data by computer analysis so that the encoded graphic does not appear to convey digital data to human viewers. The Action then relies on Komatsu to redress these shortcomings.

Applicant respectfully submits that combination of these two references in the manner suggested would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. The combination would not have been apparent because it defeats one of Szepanski's primary aims.